

DEAR SIRs:

THIS LETTER IS TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR TAKING SOME PIECES OF ROCK FROM THE FOREST. I AM VERY SORRY. I AM ALSO SORRY THAT I TOLD A LIE TO THE MAN AT THE GATE WHO ASKED ME IF I HAD REMOVED ANYTHING FROM THE PARK. THE THREE PIECES OF ROCK THAT I AM RETURNING ARE ALL THAT I TOOK. I PICKED THEM UP AT THE AGATE BRIDGE AREA. I RATIONALIZED THAT A FEW SMALL PIECES WOULD NOT HURT. I DID NOT SEE THE NOTE ON YOUR BROCHURE ABOUT A "FEW SMALL PIECES" UNTIL I RETURNED HOME AND NOW REALIZE THE EFFECT IF EVERYONE TOOK A "FEW SMALL PIECES."

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE BEEN SMITTEN OF CONSCIENCE SINCE I RETURNED HOME AND INSTEAD OF PLEASANT MEMORIES OF YOUR PARK, I FEEL GUILTY. SO, AGAIN, I AM VERY SORRY. AS FAR AS I KNOW, NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE AND I ASSURE YOU THAT IT WILL NOT AGAIN. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

SINCERELY,

A GUILTY TRAVELLER

RECEIVED PETRIFIED FOREST N P AUG 4 1980	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUPERINTENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	SECRETARY
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHIEF RANGER
<input type="checkbox"/>	P.D. RANGER
<input type="checkbox"/>	R.F. RANGER
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEE COLLECTOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADMIN. OFF. CLERK
<input type="checkbox"/>	SUPPLY ASST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADMIN. ASST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDS CLERK
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHOP WORKER
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHIEF INTERPRETER
<input type="checkbox"/>	R.F. INTERPRETER
<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE







a Memo from



Dennis McCarthy

DIRECTOR, ARIZONA STATE PARKS

1611 WEST ADAMS • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007 • PHONE 271-4174

October 6, 1972

Dear Bob:

We received this in today's mail.  
We'll let you settle with the  
Almighty.

  
-----Dennis

THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL,  
BUT I CAN'T ENJOY  
THEM -

THEY WEIGH LIKE A  
TON OF BRICKS ON  
MY CONSCIENCE.

SORRY.



Dear, Sir  
 This is what I took R, and  
 I'm sorry I took it.



RECEIVED	
PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK	
JUL 18 1968	
<input type="checkbox"/>	SUPERINTENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	MANAGEMENT ASST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	SECRETARY
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADM. ASST.
<input type="checkbox"/>	CLERK
<input type="checkbox"/>	CH. NATURALIST
<input type="checkbox"/>	CH. RANGER
<input type="checkbox"/>	FOREMAN
<input type="checkbox"/>	RAINBOW FOREST
<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE

Dina, dir  
 8554 3



072

DEAR MR. RANGER  
I AM SORRY I TOOK  
THIS. I AM ONLY  
5 YEARS OLD AND  
MADE A BAD MISTAKE.

ANDY

RECEIVED	
SEATTLE FOREST NP	
OCT 26 1970	
SUPERINTENDENT	
SECRETARY	
ADMIN OFFICER	
CHIEF OPNS	
PARK SPEC P&I	
BIBY RNOR-PD	
BIBY RNOR-RP	
CHIEF RES MGMT	
PARK SPEC RM	
FOREMAN	
FILE	



8/21/80

To Whom it may Concern:

While on vacation this summer we toured through the beautiful Petrified Forest National Park.

Upon leaving my husband ~~took these pieces~~ enclosed with him as souvenirs; ~~now after all the bad luck~~ we have had I am returning them where they belong.

Upon returning home we first found out that my step mother had kidney failure, then our dog died, our central air conditioning went out and our freezer. I had a really close call in having a bad auto accident, our truck broke down needing major repairs our cat was killed and last night close by our home a gas well blew out a cap causing us to be evacuated from our home a while.

So Please take these pieces back before we have any more bad luck and except our deepest apologize.

Thanks,

No name Please

RECEIVED  
PETRIFIED FOREST N

AUG 25 1980

RECEIVED  
ADMIN OFFICER  
DIX ASSTCHIEF INTL  
R. INTL P



CONSCIENCE LETTER 254

SORRY

FOR SOME <sup>SMALL</sup> STOLEN  
PICES (OUT OF THE PARK)



PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

APR 15

PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent

Chief Ranger

Admin. Officer

Facility Manager

Interp.

Admin. Tech.

Procurement

-11 FS



## Bryce Canyon Utah

CONSCIENCE LETTER 414

### BRYCE CANYON UTAH

Queen Victoria in Queen's Garden, one of the many unusual colorful formations found in Bryce Canyon.

Dear Ranger,  
I found this stone  
after I left the  
Detrified Forest.  
I'm sending it back  
before I get  
bad luck.

Sincerely,

Anxious  
(Not to get  
bad luck)

PUBLISHED, SEATCH CORP., BOX 5413, SALT LAKE CITY-UTAH 84115

POST CARD

S-636X



ITALCARDS  
PRINTED IN ITALY



Greentown, Ind.

Dear Sirs:

I'm returning a rock that belongs in the forest. My conscience has bothered me ever since I brought it home. I feel that the Lord wants me to return it so am doing so.

Sincerely,

A Rock Lover

RECEIVED	
PETRIFIED FOREST	
NATIONAL PARK	
AUG 08 1966	
SUPERINTENDENT	
MANAGEMENT ASST.	
SECRETARY	
ADM. ASST.	
CLERK	
CH. NATURALIST	
CH. RANGER	<i>IVE</i>
FOREMAN	
RAINBOW FOREST	
FILE	

Petrified Forest Nat'l. Park  
Arizona 86028

April 2, 1989

Dear Sirs:

When I got back to my hotel after visiting The Petrified Forest, I found The enclosed piece of petrified wood in the car. Since it is not polished, I have to assume that, despite my efforts to explain why nothing should be removed from the park, one of my children must have made the sad mistake of picking it up.

My sincere apologies.

W. H. H. H.



To: The Keeper of Rocks,

Adolescent foolishness  
caused me to take this.  
Adult guilt caused me  
to return this. In  
reality there are no  
excuses. Please forgive.

Earth Lover



NOV-1980

Here are your rocks  
nothing but bad trouble  
Los Angeles



19 August 1987

Dear People,

We visited the Petrified Forest National Park about ten days ago. On our way home, when we reached Needles, my six year old announced that a small rock was stuck in the heel of his decrepid cowboy boots. He thought it came from the petrified forest, but it could just as well have been embedded in the Grand Canyon or near the Meteor Crator. I can't tell if it is petrified wood, but just in case, I'm sending it back.

After all, one can't be too careful.

Sincerely,



24'87

REC'D		PETRIFIED FOREST NP	
	TE	INIT	
SUP			
RK			
CPR			
AO			
FM			
AT			
PD			
IS			
MA			
COPY(S)			
FILES			

4-5-83

Please put this back  
so my husband can  
get well. I tried to keep  
him from taking it.

Distrout Wife  
of Sacramento Ca.



DEAR SIRS  
I AM SORRY I TOOK

SOME PETRIFIED WOOD  
JULIAN

EC

APR 4 '8.

 PETRIFIED FORES  
NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent	
Chief Ranger	
Admin. Officer	
Facility Manager	
Interp.	
Admin. Tech.	
Procurement	

FS



Returned in perso. by  
a neighbor of the  
man in Ohio who  
took this 10 yrs.  
ago.

LH



CONSCIENCE LETTER 469

Found This ~~out~~ in my  
Room you can Have it  
back if you had luck  
I got Busted. the other  
night



DEC 8 '82

12/1/82

PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent	12/1/82
Chief Ranger	12/1/82
Admin. Officer	12/1/82
Facility Manager	
Interp.	
Admin. Tech.	12/1/82
Procurement	

This stone, with misfortune  
abounds!!

To you, ... I am  
now absolved.

B.

Oakland CA.



CONSCIENCE LETTER 228

When we visited the Petrified Forest, I craved a small piece of petrified wood that showed the colors and the bark. In the Crystal Forest I saw this piece that was perfect. I wrapped it in tissue and put it in my pocket.

When we arrived at the souvenir store, we purchased many items and I felt satisfied without the piece I picked up. I have never unwrapped it and looked at it. I am afraid if I do, I may want to keep it, so I am sending it to you so you can replace it in the Crystal Forest.

I have always tried to be a law-abiding and God-fearing citizen and why I did this I do not know. I would frown upon it, and I guess I rationalized it by thinking that many pieces walk away. I'm sorry I did it.



from **SEPTEMBER 27**WEEK  
ATA  
O  
G  
L  
A  
N  
C  
E

OCTOBER 1982

S M T W T F S

3	4	5	6	7	1	2
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**MON.**

September

**27**

YOM KIPPUR

AM PM

About 20 yrs ago  
my husband & I took  
a vacation this we  
picked up my husband

**TUE.**

September

**28**

passed away 15 yrs  
ago 49 having two  
heart attacks I lost 48  
yrs home my youngest  
son out and I had to

**WED.**

September

**29**

I have had nothing  
but Bad Luck  
I am sending this  
rock hoping the  
curse will leave

**THURS.**

September

**30**

a widow  
with nothing  
but heart Break  
Anne  
Houston Texas

**FRI.**

October

**1**

RECEIVED

SEP 2 '83

**SAT. &  
SUN.**

October

**2 • 3**PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

	Date
Superintendent	
Chief Ranger	
Admin. Officer	
Facility Manager	



Sept 1, 1983

Dear sir,

Enclosed are three stones that

take full responsibility for  
actions. I am truly sorry for  
this act, and I thank God for  
convicting me of it. I do feel  
peace with God for returning  
these stones. Please forgive me.

Sincerely,

Thomas

PULASKI, WI.

54162

PAGE  
NO.

PREPARED BY

DATE

1 My conscience has bothered me ever since, I picked this up,  
2 I am sending it back to the pack.  
3  
4



CONSCIENCE LETTER 168 B

**TRAVELODGE** FLAGSTAFF EAST

2285 BUTLER AVENUE, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA 86001 (602) 774-1821

Dear

~~Sir~~ Ranger :

I am sorry

for picking up a piece of  
petrified wood and am returning  
it.

Jason



CONSCIENCE LETTER 168 A

**TRAVELODGE** TULARE

1301 EAST PAIGE AVENUE AT HWY. 99, TULARE, CALIFORNIA 93274

James Cunningham  
[Ranger]

This little rock wanted to go home, so I sent him. Please take care of him - I did. Put him out where he can be among the moonlight and shooting stars of that gorgeous desert.

Thank-you



September 28, 1989

Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed piece of petrified rock was taken from your park over 30 years ago. I've always kept in a clean glass showcase as a souvenir of the petrified forest. It never dawned on me that the rock was like the Lava rock in Hawaii which is sacred. By chance, I found that information in a magazine.

Please place the rock where it belongs.

Sincerely,



M. S. of Hawaii

you  
WERE  
Right!



W34

CONSCIENCE LETTER 128

Return these to the Forest and  
forgive us for taking them.

I'm thankful for my conscience

May God Bless and be with all

our fellow Americans.

RECEIVED  
PETRIFIED FOREST NP

DEC 13 1976

	SUPERINTENDENT	
	SECRETARY	
	ADMIN OFFICER	
	CHIEF RANGER	
	INTERP. SPEC.	
	DIST RNGR-PD	
	DIST RNGR-RF	
	CHIEF OF MAINT.	
	SUPPLY ASST.	
	FOREMAN	
	FILE	



• LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109

Telephone  
(702) 734-5110

7-29-83

Dear sir,

I came on vacation went through your Forest. I did not believe that anything would happen but here is what has happened to me that is why I am sending the rocks back to you. on the first morning my wife gave me a Vitamin Pill it lodged in my throat I thought that was the last of me. next we went on to Grand Canyon got in my Van the next day the Van would not start cost me \$256.00 to get the Van going on the way the fans in the Van would not stop running had to pull the wire loose from the fan to get it stop. so I don't think I need the rocks I picked up so I am sending them back to you. sorry I got them in the first place. Oh yes the radio in the Van stop working and my C.B. won't work so you see why I am sending your rocks back.

RECEIVED

AUG 8 '83

PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

	De
Superintendent	
Chief Ranger	
Admin. Officer	
Facility Manager	
Interp.	
Admin. Tech.	
Procurement	
RO	

Sincerely yours  
James

Dedaton ala.

35601





U1229 5-83 (1.9MM 3-88)

VIA

FROM:

John Doe

CONSCIENCE  
LETTER 146



UPS

Chattanooga TN 37421

T  
O

Petrified Forest Park

Holbrook, AZ 86025

CONSCIENCE LETTER 146

I'm sorry I picked these  
rocks up 15 or 20 years  
ago. I have had had  
luck every since.

## A Penitence

Cast back that which was once removed,  
while guarded by spirits in their duty;  
amidst the desert splendor they were loved;  
Keep only memories of sighted beauty.

Six plus one aged, lovely desert angel lass  
two were guarded, and five were not;  
He thought it could matter not less,  
so their places of birth he soon forgot.

And now, he offers them all freely back,  
the debt he gladly pays, five for two;  
he ask the spirits to return kind luck,  
remove the shadows and take away his rue.

Without name

Florida



1-28-03

REC'D		RETRIFIED FOREST NP	
		DATE	INIT
SUPT			
MA			
CPR			
FOR			
AT			
PD			
RT			
RM			
COPY(S) TO			
FILES			

I SNAKE D  
ON THESE  
THREE YEARS AGO  
VERY BAD  
LUCK



RECEIVED

JUN 30 '81

PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

☒ Superintendent

☒ Chief Ranger

☐ Admin. Officer

☐ Facility Manager

☒ Chief of Interpret.

☐ Admin. Tech.

☐ Procurement

☒ FILED

THIS ROCK WAS  
TAKEN WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE  
OF THE CURSE.  
SORRY.

ANONYMOUS



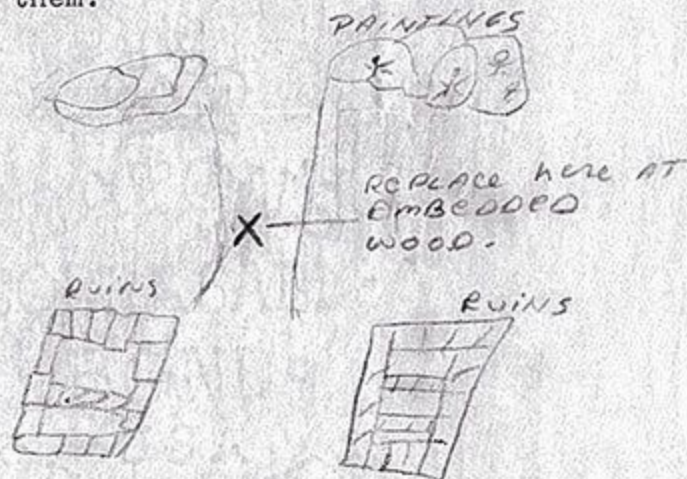
October 17, 1979

State Park Office  
Petrified Forest National Monument  
Arizona

To Whom it may concern:

Enclosed you will find a few small pieces of petrified wood that I thoughtlessly took while there in the park this past August. Call it superstition or whatever but I feel that it belongs there and nowhere else.

I am now writing a paper on Indian rock paintings and realize that the removal of these pieces goes against the Indians' sense of oneness and harmony with their surroundings. I would very much like to return them to the spot personally but I don't know when I'll be through that way again. So I would appreciate it if you would return them to the very spot from where they came: By the Puerco Indian ruins. If you were to walk up from the lowest rock paintings it would be between the rocks and the two pueblo ruins would be appx. one hundred yards ahead on both sides. There is one small piece of wood embedded there with loose pieces all around, these pieces enclosed were among them.



I hope that you will return them to the same spot and not just anywhere in the park (call it superstition I guess)

Thank you for putting up with things like this and I want you to know that I admire the work that you people are doing in the cause of conservation.

Signed,  
One of many



CONSCIENCE LETTER 497

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM RETURNING SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU.  
BAD LUCK OR COINCIDANCE? I DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING  
COULD GIVE SOMEONE BAD LUCK. IT TOOK ME THREE YEARS TO  
CONVINCE ME, BUT HERE'S WHAT BROKE THE CAMELS BACK. AFTER A  
LONG LIST OF COINCIDANCE, I DECIDED THAT EACH EVENT THAT  
HAPPENED TO ME, WAS STARTING TO LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE BAD  
LUCK, THE FINAL STRAW WAS WHEN I STEPPED THRU THE CEILING  
OF OUR NEW HOUSE. THATS WHEN I TOLD MY WIFE. I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH. I'AM SENDING IT BACK.

SORRY IN TEXAS

P.S. BOY WHAT A RELIEF!



## CORPORATE DATA SYSTEMS

740 East Flynn Lane  
Phoenix, Arizona 85014  
(602) 241-0000

## ORDER FORM

DATE 3.2.82 TIME 3:00p

SHIP TO:

BILL TO:

National Petrified Forest

COMPANY NAME

Holbrook, Arizona

STREET ADDRESS

Holbrook, Arizona, 86005

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

ATTENTION

Park Ranger

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

PURCHASE ORDER #

ATTENTION:

SPECIAL TERMS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

RETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

✓ Superintendent See 3/3  
 ✓ Chief Ranger  
 Admin. Officer  
 Facility Manager  
 Chief of City See 3/3  
 Admin. Tech.  
 Purchaser

COMPANY NAME

STREET ADDRESS

STATE

ZIP CODE

QUANTITY

STOCK #

DESCRIPTION

MACHINE MAKE

MODEL #

PRICE

UNIT

TOTALS

Stones

FILES

please put them Back in the forest,

just in case

TAX

HDL

TOTAL ORDER:

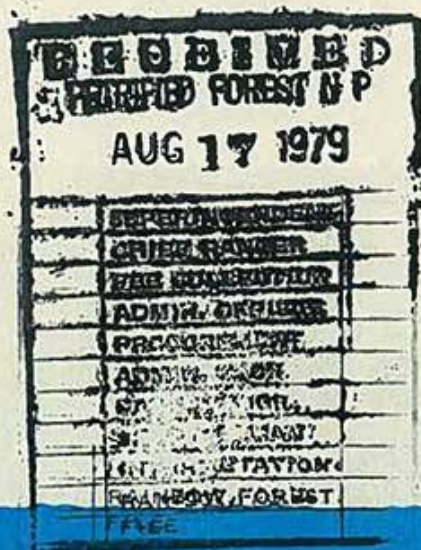


THESE  
BELONG on  
the ground  
of the petrified  
forest.



To Whom It May Concern,

I feel very badly about what I have done. After visiting the Petrified Forest, I took some of the rocks. I realize now that I am back home how foolish it was to do. I have no need for the rocks at home despite their beauty and I feel that I am depriving other American citizens of the right to their national park. I am happy to return these rock specimens to you.



SOMETIMES  
I GET THIS  
UNCONTROLLABLE URGE  
TO COMMUNICATE WITH  
ANOTHER HUMAN  
BEING!





# CRUISE AMERICA DIARY

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Mileage: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

~~Memories:~~ Sorry - our  
little girl took  
these when we  
weren't looking.





September 6, 1975

I took these stones when I was there in August on my vacation, and since I've been home as of this day, had nothing but bad luck.

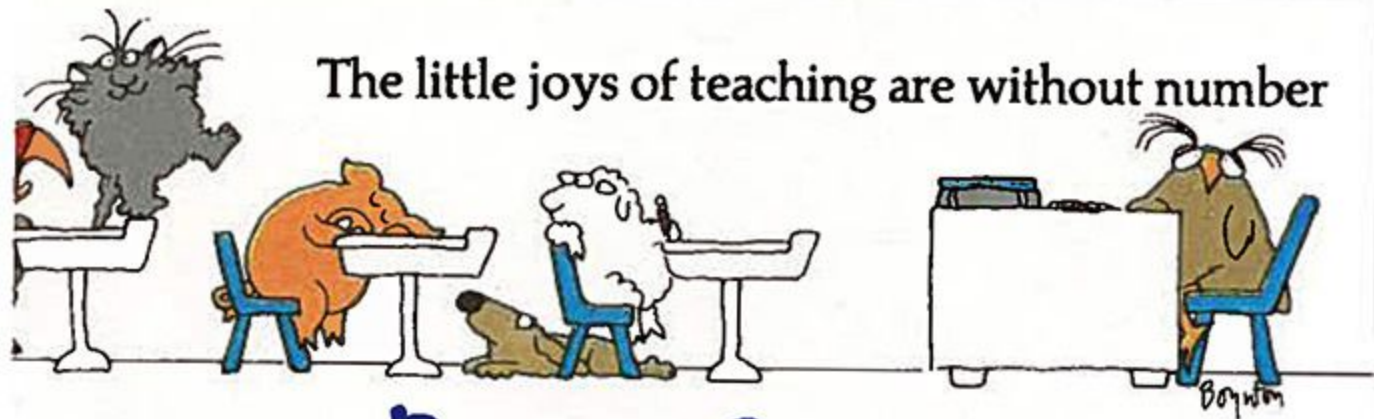
1. I brought a beautiful vase from Mexico my daughter broke it.
2. a couple of weeks later my dog was killed by an automobile instantly.
3. I found out my sister-in-law is dying of Leukemia
4. and now my cat was just killed, by the dogs next door.

So take this Petrified Wood or Stone what ever you call it and keep the bad luck there, I was fine until I brought them into my home.

Pet. wood & roots  
Sent to RF  
(ZM) 9/15/75



The little joys of teaching are without number



Dear Ranger

I am sorry I took  
this Rock. I Lied to my  
Mom and Dad.

Love

Erik





I AM SORRY  
THESE TWO  
PIECES  
CAME FROM  
THE 'BLUE MESA'  
HAVE A  
HAPPY  
HOLIDAY

RECEIVED  
PETRIFIED FOREST NP

JUL 07 1971

SUPERINTENDENT

ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

A. S. C. R.

CHIEF OF POLICE

CHIEF OF PARK

DIS. TR. RF

CHIEF R. &amp; MGMT

PARK SPEC RM

FOREMAN

FILE

Sorry;

For My  
Father



**CIRCUS  
CIRCUS**

HOTEL • CASINO/LAS VEGAS/RENO, NEVADA

HOTEL GUEST

6/19/85

My father took this piece of petrified wood. He didn't have any bad luck or guilty Conscience. However, I had to go to an Emergency Room here in Las Vegas for a kidney stone.

Here's your piece of wood returned before we got on the airplane for our flight back home.

JUN 21 '85

REC'D	PETRIFIED FOREST NP	
	DATE	INIT
SUPT		
MA		
CPR		
AO		
FM		
AT		
TS		
RF		
RA		
COPY(S) TO		
FILE		

IN LAS VEGAS • 2880 LAS VEGAS BLVD. SO. / LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109 / 702 • 734-0410  
TOLL FREE from AZ, CAL, ORE, IDAHO & UTAH 800 • 634-6898 / TOLL FREE all states 800 • 634-3450

IN RENO • 500 NO. SIERRA STREET / RENO, NEVADA 89503 / 702 • 329-0711  
TOLL FREE 800 • 648-5010



019

11/26/63

Please forgive

my sir.



083 B

Feb. 13

dear sir,

I am writing this letter in hopes of easing my conscience and saving the most important thing of my life, my marriage. Against my better judgement, I removed three rocks which my husband discovered hidden in my brasieres. Since then, being a true christian, he has constantly told me of my wrong doing. I'm afraid that our marriage is on the rocks. I want all of my eight children to see your park in the same condition that i saw it in.

I am keeping one rock to ~~me~~ remind me of the lesson i learned the hard way. I am enclosing twenty cents for you to buy another rock to replace the one i am keeping as a token of my guilt. I would appreciate it if you would buy one to replace the other very much. It would so ease my burdened conscience. also enclosed are the other two rocks.

please forgive me, and keep up the good work. thank you

Mrs. P



APRIL 5, 2012

DEAR MR. TRAVER:

I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS. MY UNCLE SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY IN CALIFORNIA IN THE EARLY 1950s. APPARENTLY HE VISITED THE PETRIFIED FOREST ON HIS TRIP HOME TO INDIANA. WHILE THERE, HE "COLLECTED" THIS SPECIMEN AS A SOUVENIR. MY GRANDMOTHER USED IT AS A DOOR STOP FOR MANY YEARS. FOLLOWING HER PASSING, MY MOTHER TOOK POSSESSION AND DISPLAYED IT IN HER HOME AS A CURIO. I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN I ACTUALLY CAME IN TO POSSESSION BUT FOR MANY YEARS IT HAS SIT ON MY DESK. I AM BEGINNING TO GET RED OF THINGS I DON'T NEED. I THOUGHT THE BEST THING TO DO WITH THIS PIECE OF HISTORY WAS TO RETURN IT TO IT'S PLACE OF ORIGIN. I HOPE THIS "SQUARES" MY FAMILY WITH YOUR PARK.

BEST REGARDS

*[Signature]*





When we visited the Petrified Forest, I craved a small piece of petrified wood that showed the colors and the bark. In the Crystal Forest I saw this piece that was perfect. I wrapped it in tissue and put it in my pocket.

When we arrived at the souvenir store, we purchased many items and I felt satisfied without the piece I picked up. I have never unwrapped it and looked at it. I am afraid if I do, I may want to keep it, so I am sending it to you so you can replace it in the Crystal Forest.

I have always tried to be a law-abiding and God-fearing citizen and why I did this I do not know. I would frown upon it, and I guess I rationalized it by thinking that my pieces walk away. I'm sorry I did it.







Chicago, Ill. 60608

Petrified Forest National Park  
CPO Halbrook, Arizona. 86028

Dear Sirs:

I am very sorry in taking your stone piece. And I feel I done wrong, and so ashamed in taking it, that I'm sending it back. And I wish that you may forgive me in doing this wrong. I know this letter is short, but what else can I say is that I was wrong and I'm sorry. And thank you.

Sincerely

*Robert*

Robert



To whom it may concern,  
I bought this "fossilized"  
rock from an Indian @ <sup>in November 14</sup> the San Xavier Mission and  
I have coincidentally had  
bad family problems  
since we came back.

I am sending it back.  
I did not know anything  
about them until after I  
came back - read about it  
online, whether naturally  
occurring or self-fated, I  
am just making sure it is  
back where it belongs.

Thanks -  
Jennifer

Jan. 18, 15



July 8, 1982

SUPERINTENDENT  
Petrified Forest National Park  
Petrified Forest, Arizona 86028

Dear Park Rangers,

Many, many moons ago, when I was just a small tot, I visited your beautiful park with my parents. I remember being amazed with your "rock-trees" and all the petrified wood. So amazed that like many small tots, I wanted a piece to take home with me! Even though it was in violation of the law of the land, my parents allowed me to take a sample and smuggle it out of the park's premises. I felt guilty for a few days but the guilt went away. I kept this piece for many years.

Then one day recently I returned to your beautiful park with my bride as a trip for our honeymoon. We were both quite impressed with your park even though we were no longer tiny tots. Nature is impressive, isn't she! Anyway we saw the museum and all the letters from people who have returned rocks which they appropriated! The guilt returned and we resolved to return our rock to its rightful spawning ground to be on display for others to enjoy. Please accept my apology for depriving the park (temporarily) of this specimen.

Sincerely and with feeling,

signed: BLACK BART

RECEIVED

MAR 21 '84

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent	
Chief Ranger	
Admin. Officer	
Interp.	
Info Tech	
Curatment	

ABOUT 50 YEARS AGO A PAIR OF NEWLY MARRIED, EX-CANADIAN CITIZENS NATIONALIZED, ACROSS THIS GREAT COUNTRY ON A HONEYMOON TRIP, AS YOU CAN GUESS FROM THE CONTENTS OF THIS MAILER THEY STOPPED AT THE PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK. MY GRANDMOTHER COULD NOT RESIST THE URGE TO BRING BACK A FEW SOUVENIRS. AS THEY EXITED THE PARK, THE GUARD FLAGGED THEIR CAR DOWN AND THE SOUVENIRS FOUND THEIR WAY INTO MY GRANDMOTHER'S CLEAVAGE. THE GUARD HAD MERELY WANTED THEM TO POST A LETTER IN GALLUP. OVER THE YEARS THE STORY OF THEIR 'CLOSE ENCOUNTER' IN THE PETRIFIED FOREST WAS TOLD MANY TIMES BUT THE SOUVENIRS WERE NEVER TO BE FOUND.

RECENTLY, AT MY GRANDPARENTS 50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, MY FATHER READ A GAG TELEGRAM FROM THE OLD GUARD AT THE EXIT OF THE PARK --

"DON'T WORRY STOP ALL IS FORGIVEN

STOP JUST BRING BACK THE 'HOT ROCKS' STOP"

A FEW WEEKS LATER. A LETTER ARRIVED BEARING NOTHING LESS THAN THE 'HOT ROCKS' WRAPPED UP IN SOME PAPER TOWELS. NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN MENTIONED, BUT I SUSPECT THAT THEY WANTED THEM RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL OWNERS - THE PEOPLE OF A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN VERY GOOD TO THEM.



CARROLL COUNTY LETTER  
374

April 45, 1986



To whom it may concern,

My parents visited there last summer and my mother purchased 3 petrified rocks. During that trip, my father picked one up from the grounds.

Since that time, my father has lost his dad to cancer and my mother has had surgery for cancer. We have just found out my father has cancer of the brain and cancer of the lungs (he never smoked in his life). My mother feels the rock he took has brought bad luck on our family therefore, she has requested that I return all 4 rocks.

Please see that they are replaced where they rightfully belong.

Sincerely,  
J.W.



Route 1  
Sherrodsville, Ohio  
November 19, 1964

Petrified Forest National Monument  
Route 66, National Park Service  
Arizona (Holbrook)

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a piece of rock I picked up at the Newspaper Rock stop of the tour of the Petrified forrest. Since I gave my heart to the Lord and have been living right I have to return this and ask you to forgive me for taking it ~~and~~ for in so doing breaking the law of the land and God's law. The Devil had such a hold on me I only took it for the sake of doing it as you can see it is not a very pretty stone or of much worth; I just had the habit of stealing but thank God he has saved me from this and I don't want anything to come between us or to go back in sin again and be worse than before. Besides this stone there was a sorig of pine with a cone of seeds I remember taking but I cant put it back on the tree but ask you to forgive me for both.

I am at your mercy for when I did it I knew there was a fine but like I say I was not a christian and if you think I should pay a fine or go to orison I am at your mercy and you have my address. Please forgive me and you can be sure it will not happen again. Will be waiting to hear from you.

Sincerely,

*Sherrodsville, Ohio*

RECEIVED PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK	
NOV 23 1964	
SUPERINTENDENT	<i>Qest</i>
MANAGEMENT ASST.	
SECRETARY	
ADM. ASST.	
CLERK	
CH. NATURALIST	
CH. RANGER	<i>29</i>
FOREMAN	<i>AMS 11/24/64</i>
RAINBOW FOREST	
FILE	



ASHLAND

ICER, IN CHARGE  
U. S. NATIONAL PARK  
PAINTED DESERT & PETRIFIED  
FOREST  
HOLBROOK, ARIZ.

DEAR SIR,

A MONTH AGO I TOURED YOUR PARK  
AND I STOLE SOME PIECES OF WOOD.  
I KNEW WHILE I WAS DOING IT  
THAT I WAS STEALING FROM THE  
FUTURE & THAT IF EVERYONE DID  
AS I DID THERE WOULD BE NO  
MORE OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL LITTLE  
BROKEN PIECES TO SHINE IN THE SUN  
I INTENDED TO SEND THEM BACK  
SOONER, BUT THE TIME GOT AWAY  
SIGNED,  
Sorry

THESE  
BELONG on  
the ground  
of the petrified  
forest.



June 16<sup>th</sup> 1986

Dear Sirs,

While driving through  
your park, we drove over  
this piece of wood... and  
got a Plat! We kept it  
but now realize it should  
be returned.

You have an  
excellent park, keep up  
the great work.

Sincerely

Phila. Pa

**Airport**  
2116 Yale Blvd., S.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106  
505-243-5500

[illegible]

CONSCIENCE LETTER 301

Dear Sir: - - I'm sorry -

I was tempted & fell. I was going to make a necklace out of this, but it would have been a millstone around my neck, so am sending it back. Please forgive me, I'm sorry.

ELL -



CARL  
RECEIVED  
PETRIFIED FOREST NATL

MAR 27 '89

DOKITIKA  
FEB 21/89

DEAR SIR,

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED BOOK ENDS  
OF PETRIFIED WOOD. THEY WERE PURCHASED  
FROM ONE OF THE PARK OUTLETS FEB. 1981  
AT THE TIME MY WIFE AND I WERE ON  
OUR WAY TO NEW ZEALAND FROM NIAGARA  
FALL ONT. CANADA. WE HAVE LIVED IN  
N.Z. SINCE.

AT THE TIME WE PURCHASED THE  
BOOK ENDS WE HAD READ LETTERS OF  
PEOPLE WHO HAD HARD LUCK STORIES  
AS A RESULT OF TAKING UNAUTHORISED  
PETRIFIED WOOD AND THE INDIAN LEGEND  
THEY ENDED UP RETURNING THEIR ILL  
GOTTEN GAINS.

AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF UNEXPLAINED  
BAD LUCK WE HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN  
OUR BOOK ENDS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE  
PURCHASED THROUGH THE RIGHT METHODS.  
OUR BAD LUCK IS MAINLY FINANCIAL.  
WE HAVE HAD GREAT FINANCIAL LOSSES  
SINCE 1981. ANY DECISION MADE TO  
IMPROVE OUR STANDARDS ALL SEEM TO

CONSCIENCE LETTER 475(P12)

GO DOWN. PRIOR TO 1981 MOST DECISIONS  
WERE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

RETURNING THE 'BOOK ENDS IS A  
DESPERATE EFFORT TO CHANGE THE RUN  
OF BAD LUCK.

YOURS SINCERELY

A handwritten signature, possibly 'J. J.', written in dark ink.



Dear Ron per #

I was sorry that I took back  
PS,



I + race the rock  
I took.

SEP 12 '85

REC'D	FILED	DATE	TIME
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CONSCIENCE LETTER 309  
SORRY ~  
"THOU SHALT  
NOT STEAL"  
I LEARNED MY LESSON —  
AF  
8-6-84



**ALAS**  
SUPPLY CO., INC.

*File - Consumer & Export*

2960 WESTER AVENUE  
BRONX 58, N. Y.  
LUdlow 4-1550

---

---

STAINLESS STEEL

MEMO

6 March 1974

Sirs:

In 1959, our family visited the forest, and purchased this piece from one of the roadside stands. Now, we would much rather see the piece back where it belongs, so we are returning it to you. Please see that it returns to a suitable location other than a roadside stand or commercial shop.

Thank you!



GALVANIZED - HC

ENAMELING - PAINTLOK

COPPER - BRONZE - MUNTZ

ALUMINUM

# Mini Communication Planner

Name:

Phone:

Company:

Address:

7/12/89

See

Subject

Follow-  
Up

Revised Forest PS —

I'm returning  
these pieces from  
3 years ago.

They seem to  
have brought bad  
luck.

JKS



## A Penitence

Cast back that which was once removed,  
while guarded by spirits in their duty;  
amidst the desert splendor they were loved;  
Keep only memories of sighted beauty.

LETTER 455

Six plus one aged, lovely desert angel lass  
two were guarded, and five were not;  
He thought it could matter not less,  
so their places of birth he soon forgot.

And now, he offers them all freely back,  
the debt he gladly pays, five for two;  
he ask the spirits to return kind luck,  
remove the shadows and take away his rue.

Without name

Florida

To Whom it may concern:

Take these miserable rocks and put them back into the rainbow forest, for they have caused pure havoc in my love life and Cheryl's too.

By the time these rocks reach you things should be back to normal if not, I give up.

Signed,

Dateless + Desperate

MAY 6 '85

REC'D	
PETRIFIED FOREST NP	
DATE	INIT
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COPIED TO	
FILES	



J'ai fenté  
J'ai craqué!

MAY 20 '85

REC'D	DATE	INIT
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COPIES TO		
FILES		

A piece of petrified  
wood from Arizona  
which is forbidden to  
take out, I took it many  
years ago.

SEP 1

PETRIFIED WOOD	
NATION	
Supplied by	1/6/29
Weight	200 g
Vol. in fl oz	100
Quality	100
Condition	100
Lot	100
Box	100



FROM \_\_\_\_\_

DATE Thanksgiving, 1984

CELL NO 13 RELATION one of you

ADDRESS

10 Petri Red Forest  
National State Forest Museum  
Boston, Mass.  
CITY East Boston

To all,

since I took these pieces of wood from the forest it seems my life has gone down hill ever since. No matter how hard I try to make things right I've been in jail most of the time, since I've been to the forest and my poor wife, who I dearly love, is ready to give birth to our third child. I hope by returning these pieces of wood my life will straighten out and go the way my wife and I want it to. I truly believe it will. If it does my wife and three children will be back to read this letter and see these pieces of wood in your case.

I know this is the answer.

P.S. I'm sure my wife will feel the same as I do. Right now she's at home and I'm in my cell living her.

CONSCIENCE LETTER 302

RECEIVED

JUN 28 '84

PETRIFIED FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent	
Chief Ranger	
Admin. Officer	
Facility Manager	
Interp.	
Procurement	

San Francisco, Ca.

June 24, 1984

Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona, 86028

RF

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept these four pieces of petrified wood. I surreptitiously removed them from the Park in 1964 when I was thirteen years old.

I am very sorry to have contributed to the pilferage which has made it necessary to limit access to the Park.

My youthful enthusiasm for a souvenir and my selfishness exceeded my understanding of the Park's limited resource.

I hope other tourist who removed wood from the park will return their "souvenirs" as I have done.

Thank you.



PAINTED DESERT VISITOR CENTER  
PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK  
AZ 86028 USA

Verona 28 March 1987

In the April '86 I was going across the Petrified Forest with my wife. It was about the end of the afternoon and because of a late hour I took away some stones to give to our geologist son.

When in August my daughter came back from a working opportunity in USA, she told me of a curse of the taken away Petrified Forest' stones.

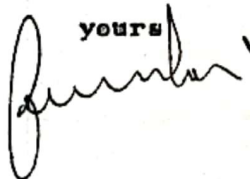
Therefore after my return from Usa I've lost money in the Stock Exchange, my job was taken off and my shop was closed, my daughter went to the hospital for a long time with a broken tendon of the knee and is waiting for a surgical transplantation, my dear aunt is still in the hospital with a broken femur from December and last but not least I fell ill of a cancer and suffered 4 surgical operations.

Now I send you the stones and I hope that my unlucky story finishes and tell the people taking away the stones to do not it.

I hope to be healthful in the next years and to be able to visit the Petrified Forest once more in the future.

Please excuse my foolishness. Many thanks and greetings

yours



Gianfranco  
Verona - Italy

LITTLETON CO  
80125

CONSCIENCE  
LETTER 284

Please put this  
back in the park  
It is bad luck

l Park

Please  
HAND  
CANCEL!  
///



Received 12-28-83



CONSCIENCE LETTER 290

Augsburg, 6.2.84

Dear Sirs,

on my last visit to Petrified Forest in 1981 I saw a piece of wood and couldn't resist taking it with me. Now since years passed I think that its place is Petrified Forest, and that's why I send it back now.

I am sorry that I kept it for so long time, please put it back where it belongs to. - thank you.

Kind regards

U.S.A.





1 Oct 17/7

CONSCIENCE LETTER 099

Dear Sir:

This is a hard note to write. It's not easy to admit an error even after nearly 15 years. About 1959 or 1960 my family was touring the west from South Carolina - I was in school at the time. We spent a morning at the petrified forest. In spite of your signs I took a piece of petrified wood (enclosed).

While cleaning out I ran across it and decided to return it. Taking it was wrong and I'm sorry I took it. This sample would make it impossible for me to honestly teach my children how wrong it is to take what isn't yours. Hence, I must return it.

Someday I may be able to return to your national monument - with a much better attitude. I am in the Air Force stationed in New Mexico.

RECEIVED	
PETRIFIED FOREST NP	
OCT 10 1973	
SUPERINTENDENT	
SECRETARY	
ADMIN OFFICER	
CHIEF RANGER	
INTERP. SPEC.	
DIST RNGR-PO	
DIST RNGR-RF	
CHIEF OF MAINT.	
SUPPLY ASST.	
FOREMAN	
FILE	

Ward sent to

Sincerely,  
George.  
George

Dear Park Ranger:

Many years ago my boyfriend stole this petrified wood from your monument. I've always felt guilty that I didn't stop him - which I probably could have.

My brother-in-law has been kind enough to return them to you as he drives through Arizona. Please accept them with my deepest apologies.

Thank you,  
Sincerely

P.S. I dumped my boyfriend not too long after that!

2 PIECES

2 POUNDS



I

am sorry

I

ever

took

I +

(the rock)

FEB 11 '86

REC'D		
PETRIFIED FOREST NP		
	DATE	INIT
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CONFIDENCE LETTER  
1915

Killo

I collected three pieces of Wood  
out of the tail of a trail, because  
I thought, that this could be  
better, nobody could miss them there  
but I found some, that were better  
outside the park, so I send them  
back to you.



RECEIVED

JAN 6 '84 2 JAN 83

DEAR SUPERINTENDENT

THERE MUST BE AN INDIAN ~~GRACE~~ ON ALL WHO  
TAKE FROM ITS GRAVE A ~~PIECE~~ OF YOUR PETRIFIED  
TREES

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK	
Superintendent	De
Asst. Dir.	
Admin. Officer	
Facility Mgr.	
Interp.	
Admin. Tech.	
Procurement	
RF	

THIS PARTICULAR PIECE CAME FROM YOUR STORE  
AT THE SOUTH GATE AND WAS FULLY PAID FOR.  
NONETHELESS, IT MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM  
THE PARK AT SOME POINT IN HISTORY, AS MY  
HARD LUCK STORY WILL ATTEST:

1. BEFORE MY VACATION WAS OVER MY BRIFCASE AND ITS CONTENTS WERE STOLEN FROM MY CAR.
2. THEN MY WIFE WAS FORCED TO RETURN TO THE FAR EAST TO DEAL WITH AN EMBEZZLEMENT IN HER BUSINESS.
3. AFTER THAT, MY HOUSE WAS BURGLARIZED. I LOST ALL MY ~~HARD~~ EARNED POSSESSIONS. I HAD NO INSURANCE.
4. TO TOP IT OFF, MY BROTHER IS BEING SUED, AND THE PROPERTY WE OWN JOINTLY HAS TO BE SOLD QUICKLY AT A TREMENDOUS LOSS.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! PLEASE TAKE THE ROCK  
AND LET IT REST IN PIECE IN THE PLACE  
IT SO OBVIOUSLY WISHES TO RETURN TO.

SINCERELY,

A TOURIST.

I NEVER KNEW until a week ago that  
 A piece of stolen petrified wood  
 HAS BEEN CLAIMED to be BAD LUCK.  
 I HAD TAKEN a piece of wood 8 years  
 ago. When I LOOK at my life since  
 THEN not much of ANYTHING has  
 BEEN Right. I just always have  
 FELT that I AM destined to a hard  
 life. Since finding out also about  
 the BAD LUCK, things HAVE gotten  
 progressively worse. I had TAKEN  
 the ROCK in my car AND a OVER-  
 whelming smell of the car burning  
 CAME OVER my children and I.  
 Since then I have become  
 frightened of having this piece  
 of petrified wood in my possession.  
 I have sent it back with  
 the hopes that maybe my life  
 really can change for the  
 Better.



AUG 19 '85

REC'D	DATE	INIT
RECEIVED FOREST NP		
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WY		



To whom it may concern;

I was at your park in the winter of '82, I was so excited that I could be a part of something that took place millions of years ago so needless to say I took some of the pieces that I had found. I just couldn't believe what I had read about the bad luck it just didn't seem real that just because you took something like that it could cause bad luck. Well, I don't know if that's the reason for my bad luck or not but I know it doesn't belong to me so I'm sending it back. I gave a small piece to my granddaughter to take to school for show & tell and she lost it. This is all

I have left. I hope you can  
for give me for being dishonest  
I've already ask God ~~for~~ to  
for give me and the other  
thing for me to do is send  
back what I took. Please  
for give me.

Thanks  
Jerry

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy



CONSCIENCE LETTER #16

RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

AUG 11 '88

August 3, 1988

PAINTED DESERT VISITOR CENTER  
Petrified Forest  
National Park, AZ 86028

Attn: Superintendent's Office

To Whom it may Concern:

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 11 1988	
FBI - TULSA	
CY TO	
FILES	

Enclosed are the causes of very bad luck. My father and I were visiting the Petrified Forest on our way to my sister's, in California. The night we arrived in California, my dad was bitten several times by my sister's cat. If this wasn't enough, things got complicated, and we ended up in the hospital. His whole arm began to swell with infection later that day. Before going to the hospital, though, my sister received a call from her work, informing her that they had to let her go. We were stuck in Emergency until 1:00am. The next morning, I was putting some waffles in the toaster, and the handle broke off. This quick streak of bad luck ended within 48 hours of our arrival at my sisters, when we had a family fight almost resulting in our abrupt departure, when we had just arrived!

My sister had mentioned the letters she had read when she visited the Petrified Forest which had prevented her from taking anything. We all decided to send these small pieces of nature back, before our bad luck streak escalated.

I feel bad for taking my findings from the Petrified Forest, and I apologize for their removal. PLEASE return them to their rightful place in the crystalized forest.

Thank You,

*Tracie*

Tracie

December 4, 1989

Superintendent  
Petrified Forest National Park  
Arizona 86028

Sir or Madam:

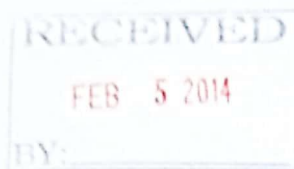
About ten days ago while we were touring the Petrified Forest, we found the enclosed rocks in the Crystal Forest area. The rocks were very appealing, and in a moment of exhuberance we took the rocks with us as a memento of our trip.

We realize now that this was the wrong thing to do, and we exercised a bit of bad judgment in our decision. Accordingly, we are returning the rocks to the park, and we ask that they be returned to the Crystal Forest area.

We sincerely apologise for removing the rocks.

*Jim*





North Yorkshire

HG5 0NX

13/01/14

Dear Sir/ Madame

In December 1994 my family and I took a trip to New Mexico to stay with family over the Christmas period. As part of our trip we visited The Petrified Forest. As far as I can remember it was fantastic, but at the time I was a grumpy teenage girl. I remember coming into the visitor centre and seeing all the letters from visitors who had picked up pieces of the Petrified wood, although encouraged by yourselves not to, and the reams of letters describing the bad luck that fell upon them after taking the pieces of wood.

I can't say I've had bad luck, I believe you make your own, but I do believe in Karma, and after nearly 20 years I want to return these two pieces back to you. I felt quite the rebel picking these up and putting them in my pocket, but hindsight is a wonderful thing, and I want to right the wrongs.

Please accept my apologies and the safe return of two pieces of Petrified wood.

Hopefully I will be able to visit the National Park at some point very soon

Kind regards

Charley